

Do it for Yourself!

Properly disposing of hazardous waste is certainly vital to preserving our environment, but there is another just as important, less talked about reason- **our health and safety, especially that of young children.** The number of annual accidental poisonings within a household are overwhelming and cannot be ignored. Last year in the state of Wisconsin over 30,000 poisonings were recorded with 14,000 of those cases involving children between the ages of one and two.

Most incidents happen within the home with everyday products. When gotten into the wrong hands, cleaning and chemical products can be swallowed, inhaled, absorbed through the skin or enter the system through the eye. Exposure to these hazardous products can cause serious damage and even prove lethal in certain cases. Chemical burns to the skin, lungs, eyes and esophagus as well as coughing up blood, trouble breathing, vomiting and seizures are just a few gravely serious effects seen in hospitals following a poisoning.

The bottom line is these products should not be unnecessarily in the home. And whatever is in the home should be properly stored up and away, inaccessible to young children. Caution should be taken with any of these products as even adults can fall victim to accidental poisonings. Exposure to pesticides or herbicides can happen just working in the yard. The mixing of cleaning products such as bleach and ammonia can be a deadly combination. Take a moment to think about what hazardous products you really need around your house. Then dispose of the unwanted items responsibly, for you, your children and the environment.



Caustic Corrosives are harmful products in the home that have a high risk of injury to children. Skin, eye and oral burns as well as esophageal burns and internal hemorrhaging are among just some effects of hazardous exposure.



Is it any wonder a child may be confused by what is hazardous? Never store hazardous materials in anything other than its original container.

Dunn County Recyclables Get Around

While Dunn County residents may know where and when they can recycle, they probably have no idea how those recyclables are eventually reused once processed.

Tires from Dunn County are shipped to Minneapolis where GreenMan Technologies processes the tires into rubberized asphalt and surface products used in playing fields, public highways, playgrounds and running tracks. **Shredded tires** are used as a substitute for crushed stone in landfill lining or large septic field construction. But the majority of tires processed at GreenMan are used to create an alternative fuel source which burns more efficiently than coal and emits considerably less noxious fumes than other sources.

Glass can be recycled time and time again without losing any quality. The glass from Dunn County goes to Shakopee, Minnesota where it is made into new glass bottles or jars. Turn around to recycle glass is as short as 30 days. Our **plastics** are recycled in Dundee, Michigan where they become new detergent bottles, cleaning product containers and crates.

Office paper goes to Ladysmith where it is recycled into jumbo roll tissue paper and eventually is processed into bath tissues, napkins, toweling and medical grade facial tissues. **Cardboard** becomes rolls of paper by Liberty Paper in Becker, Minnesota. The paper processed by Liberty comes in various weights and some of it is even moisture resistant. **Newspapers** from Dunn County are recycled into insulation by Applegate Insulation in Bloomer, Wisconsin. Their insulation is made of 85% post consumer recycled newspaper.

Tin cans, scrap metal and aluminum are sold to local scrap and salvage dealers. There are numerous places these recyclables can end up. For example, **tin cans** may eventually be recycled into cars, appliances and construction materials. Recycled **aluminum** can be found in everything from bikes to cookware. The benefits of recycling truly are endless!

Green Cleaning - Even more ways to rid your home of unwanted chemicals

Why spend money on household cleaning products when you can use everyday basic items to do the same job? These **non-toxic** cleaning recipes are healthier for you, your family and the environment! Here's what you'll need to get started:

- Baking Soda
- Tooth Paste
- Vegetable Oil
- White Vinegar
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Salt



Bathroom:

Window and Mirror Cleaner - In a spray bottle, combine 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon of liquid soap or detergent and 2 cups of water and shake to blend. Use old newspaper, rather than a paper towel to wipe the windows.

Soft Scrubber - Place 1/2 cup baking soda in a bowl. Add enough liquid soap or detergent or make a frosting like consistency, stirring continually. Scoop mixture onto sponge, wash surface and rinse.

Basin Tub and Tile Cleaner - Combine 1/4 cup baking soda with 1/2 cup white vinegar and use soft cloth for cleaning.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner - Sprinkle baking soda inside bowl as in any scouring powder. Add a few drops of liquid soap, scrub with toilet bowl brush. Clean outside surface with rag sprinkled with baking soda.

Floors etc:

Floor Cleaner - Mix 1 cup vinegar with 1 pail hot water. Apply and wipe clean.

Carpet Stain Remover - Mix 1/4 cup vinegar with 1/4 cup water and rub on stain. Rinse with water.

Wood Products - Mix 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, 4 tablespoons of white vinegar and 1 quart warm water. Apply with soft cloth, dry with separate clean cloth. Water rings or spots can be removed from wood furniture with a mixture of toothpaste and baking soda applied with damp cloth.

Kitchen:

Oven Cleaner - Requires 1 cup or more of baking soda and a squirt or two of liquid soap. Sprinkle water generously over bottom of oven. Cover oven grime with enough baking soda so surface is totally white. Sprinkle water on top of baking soda. Let sit overnight and in the morning, wipe up remaining grease. Wash remaining residue with small bit of liquid soap on a damp sponge. Not for use in self cleaning ovens.

Drain Cleaner - Pour 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain. Follow with a 1/2 cup of white vinegar. Let fizz for a few minutes, then pour boiling water down the drain. Repeat if needed.

Silver Cleaner - Rub white toothpaste into tarnished silver with a cloth. Rinse with warm soapy water and buff dry.

Copper Cleaner - Mix a tablespoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt and apply to surface with a rag. Rinse thoroughly afterwards to avoid corrosion. Not for lacquered finishes.

Preparing Recyclables

General Guidelines to help prepare your recyclables:

- Labels do not have to be removed
- Remove caps and lids
- Empty contents
- Rinse clean
- Flatten or crush bottle, jugs or cans

Aluminum

- Pop cans
- Clean foil and pie tins may go in the Industrial Metal bin at the Collection Stations



Glass Bottles and Jars

- Food jars, beer, soda, wine and liquor bottles (remove metal rings)
- **NO** window glass, ceramics, china, Pyrex, or light bulbs
- Avoid breaking glass



Steel (Tin) & Aerosol Cans

- Besides cans, steel caps and lids from plastic bottles, jars and frozen juice containers may be recycled
- Metal lids and rings from glass bottles



Plastic Bottles

- #1 or #2 bottles with small neck openings (milk, soda, laundry detergent)
- **NO** motor oil, transmission fluid, herbicide or pesticide bottles
- **NO** wide mouth plastic containers (cottage cheese, ice cream, margarine)
- **NO** Styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic wrap, egg cartons or yogurt containers



Mixed Paper

- Newspaper must be dry and clean. If it comes with the newspaper, it can be recycled with the newspaper
- White/pastel office paper, envelopes, window envelopes, Post-it Notes, scratch paper, computer paper
- Telephone directories
- Paperback books



Cardboard

- Clean, corrugated cardboard flattened and cut down to no larger than three foot square
- Cereal, cake and other baking boxes flattened with liners removed
- Paper grocery bags
- Manila envelopes and file folders
- **NO** pizza boxes, pop or beer cartons, detergent boxes, wax milk or juice cartons, produce boxes, tooth paste boxes, soap boxes, green house boxes, or hard cover books



Magazines

- Magazines or catalogs with shiny appearance
- Shiny paper from your mail
- **NO** books, phone books, or magazines/catalogs printed on newsprint such as comic books or crossword puzzle books



Leftover Latex Paint

While not considered hazardous waste, latex paint **cannot** be disposed of with regular trash. Because it is liquid, it must be brought to a hazardous waste collection event. But before disposing of latex paint, consider offering the paint to civic organizations or non-profit agencies for housing projects or primer coats. Paint that has been dried out properly may be disposed of in the trash. The purpose of drying out the paint is to prevent the liquid from leaching down into the earth. Illegally dumped products could plug septic fields, overload sewage treatment plants and create environmental messes.



Drying out paint:

If a can of paint is less than 1/4 full, remove the lid and in a well ventilated area **away from children and pets** and let the paint dry in the can. Locked screen porches or balconies work well for this. Stir paint occasionally to speed up the process. Smaller amounts of paint can also be used up by painting an old piece of cardboard or newspaper until the paint is gone. Once dried, the paint can, cardboard and/or newspaper can be disposed of in the garbage.

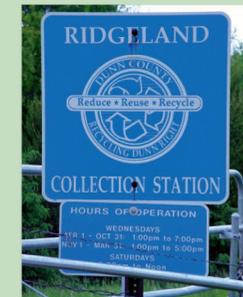
For cans less than 1/2 full, pour kitty litter or "oil dry" into the can. Stir the mixture and let dry. A commercial paint hardener can also be purchased from a hardware store or home improvement center and used to the same affect.

For larger amounts of paint or latex paint that has separated, line a cardboard box with a plastic bag. Place kitty litter, sand, sawdust, crumpled paper, vermiculite or ground corn cobs inside and pour a limited amount of paint on top, allowing it to harden. Repeat this procedure until the paint is gone. Once everything has dried, dispose the bag and it's contents in the trash and recycle the box.

NOTE: Paint cannot be disposed of in any of these ways if it contains lead. Bring lead based paints to a Hazardous Waste Collection Event.

Ready to Recycle in Ridgeland

The Ridgeland Area Collection Site is very accessible and can be found right off of Hwy 25, just north of Hwy 64. Hours of operation are **Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon. From November 1- March 31, Wednesdays hours will be 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with Saturday hours remaining the same.**



A graduation party led to some major cleaning for Carol Weinklein. She arrived at the Ridgeland Area Collection Station with a trailer full of items to be sorted.



While recycling at the Ridgeland Area Collection Station, Ryan Hoffman learned that while corrugated cardboard and cereal boxes can be recycled, **pop cartons and pizza boxes have to go in the trash.** Pop and beer cartons cannot be recycled as they are coated to resist moisture, making them difficult to breakdown like other cardboards. Food contaminated cardboard (such as pizza boxes) is non-recyclable as well.